

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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GOODIN WILL FIGHT TO KEEP BROWNSTOWN LICENSE BRANCH OPEN

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Terry Goodin (D-Crothersville) today encouraged area residents to help him fight any efforts by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to close a license branch located in Brownstown, saying any move to close the facility will create hardships for thousands of people, particularly senior citizens.

"Brownstown is one of the chief targets on the new hit list compiled by Gov. Mitch Daniels," Goodin said. "Since this administration seems to place a greater emphasis on saving money than providing quality service to the people of Indiana, I feel it is important for residents to begin speaking out as quickly as possible to make sure that this closing does not take place."

Brownstown is one of 24 branches across Indiana that BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman has recommended be closed at some point in the near future. That announcement came after the BMV shut down nine branches scattered around the state.

"State law does require that the BMV conduct a public hearing in each of the counties where a branch is expected to be closed, so the people of Jackson County will have a chance to speak their minds to Commissioner Silverman about his plans to bring more 'efficiency' to state government," Goodin said.

"Based on reports about the hearings in other areas where branches were closed, I am not optimistic that we will be able to save the Brownstown office, but I will fight the closing to the bitter end," the legislator continued. "The commissioner did change his mind about keeping some branches open, but only in those areas represented by Republican leadership in the Indiana Senate. That means the governor is playing politics in these decisions, despite his claims to the contrary."

While Silverman claims it is important to close license branches in order to provide updated and more efficient services to the people of Indiana, Goodin said the moves will produce exactly the opposite results for many residents.

"What we are seeing here takes place when people attempt to operate government as a business," Goodin said. "You simply cannot look at providing critical government services only from the point of view of profits and losses. You must try to understand how you are affecting people who depend on those services to get through their everyday lives."

"You can save money by closing branches, but no one seems to have spent any time trying to figure out how such actions will affect those people who rely upon a branch for needed services," he added. "Since Jackson County covers a large geographical area, we will be asking them to take time away from work and their families in order to drive to a license branch and transact business."

"And how will seniors who do not drive be able to get to a branch and obtain the photo identification that will be required in order to vote in future elections?" Goodin noted. "There are too many questions out there, and we cannot let the governor and Commissioner Silverman make these heavy-handed decisions without answering the public's concerns."

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